

Amendments to the Specification:

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 20 with the following amended paragraph:

The 5445 nucleotide CARD-7 cDNA described below (SEQ ID NO:1) has a 4287 nucleotide open reading frame (nucleotides 523 to 4809 of SEQ ID NO:1; SEQ ID NO:5) which encodes a 1429 amino acid protein (SEQ ID NO:2). The nucleotide and predicted amino acid sequence of the CARD-7 cDNA are depicted in Figs. 1A-1D. CARD-7 is predicted to be an intracellular protein. CARD-7 contains a nucleotide binding domain at amino acids 329-645 of SEQ ID NO:2. Within this domain there is a kinase 1A (P loop; Walker Box A subdomain) subdomain at amino acids 333-341 of SEQ ID NO:2; a kinase 2 subdomain (Walker Box B subdomain) at amino acids 404-413 of SEQ ID NO:2; a kinase 3a subdomain at amino acids 454-463 of SEQ ID NO:2; and a motif 2 domain at amino acids 615-622 of SEQ ID NO:2. CARD-7 also contains six leucine rich domains (amino acids 807-834; 836-863; 864-891; 893-920; 921-948; and 950-976 of SEQ ID NO:2). CARD-7 has a CARD domain at amino acids 1335-~~1429~~1481 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 24 with the following amended paragraph:

The 5445 nucleotide CARD-7 cDNA described below (SEQ ID NO:1) has a 4287 nucleotide open reading frame (nucleotides 523 to 4809 of SEQ ID NO:1; SEQ ID NO:5) which encodes a 1429 amino acid protein (SEQ ID NO:2). The nucleotide and predicted amino acid sequence of the CARD-7 cDNA are depicted in Figs. 1A-1D. CARD-7 is predicted to be an intracellular protein. CARD-7 contains a nucleotide binding domain at amino acids 329-645 of SEQ ID NO:2. Within this domain there is a kinase 1A (P loop) subdomain at amino acids 333-341 of SEQ ID NO:2; a kinase 2 subdomain at amino acids 404-413 of SEQ ID NO:2; a kinase 3a subdomain at amino acids 454-463 of SEQ ID NO:2; and a motif 2 domain at amino acids 615-622 of SEQ ID NO:2. CARD-7 also contains six leucine rich domains (amino acids 807-

834; 836-863; 864-891; 893-920; 921-948; and 950-976 of SEQ ID NO:2). CARD-7 has a CARD domain at amino acids 1335-~~1429~~1481 of SEQ ID NO:2.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 12, line 5 with the following amended paragraph:

CARD-7 or CARD-8 proteins useful in the methods of the invention include a CARD domain having at least about 65%, preferably at least about 75%, and more preferably about 85%, 95%, or 98% amino acid sequence identity to the CARD domain of CARD-7 or CARD-8 (~~SEQ ID NO: 7 and SEQ ID NO:8~~).

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 4 with the following amended paragraph:

A nucleic acid fragment encoding a "biologically active portion" of CARD-7 or CARD-8 can be prepared by isolating a portion of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:5, or SEQ ID NO:6, which encodes a polypeptide having a CARD-7 or CARD-8 biological activity, expressing the encoded portion of CARD-7 or CARD-8 protein (e.g., by recombinant expression in vitro) and assessing the activity of the encoded portion of CARD-7 or CARD-8. For example, a nucleic acid fragment encoding a biologically active portion of CARD-7 or CARD-8 includes a CARD domain, ~~e.g., SEQ ID NO:7 or SEQ ID NO:8~~.

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 22, line 34 with the following amended paragraph:

Biologically active portions of a CARD-7 or CARD-8 protein include peptides comprising amino acid sequences sufficiently identical to or derived from the amino acid sequence of the CARD-7 or CARD-8 protein (e.g., the amino acid sequence shown in SEQ ID NO:2 or SEQ ID NO:4), which include less amino acids than the full length CARD-7 or CARD-8 protein, and exhibit at least one activity of a CARD-7 or CARD-8 protein. Typically, biologically active portions comprise a domain or motif with at least one activity of the CARD-7

or CARD-8 protein. A biologically active portion of a CARD-7 or CARD-8 protein can be a polypeptide which is, for example, 10, 25, 50, 100 or more amino acids in length. Preferred biologically active polypeptides include one or more identified CARD-7 or CARD-8 structural domains, e.g., the CARD domain (~~SEQ ID NO:7~~ or ~~SEQ ID NO:8~~).